

USSN 10/042,130
Amendment Responsive to Office Action of December 3, 2003
June 3, 2004
A-1674

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A quick change roll-fed high speed labeling system, comprising:

a conveyor for moving articles to be labeled;

an infeed screw assembly for spacing and stabilizing the articles, said infeed screw assembly comprising a feedscrew having a plurality of pockets for receiving and properly spacing successive ones of the articles as they enter said system, and a gear drive for driving said feedscrew, said feedscrew being pivotable through a range of motion both horizontally and vertically;

a rotatable starwheel assembly having a plurality of spaced pockets for receiving individual ones of the articles therein;

a rotatable vacuum drum assembly; and

a supply of roll fed labels, wherein said labels are dispensed singly onto a label receiving face of said rotatable vacuum drum assembly.

4. (Previously Presented) The labeling system as recited in Claim 3, and further comprising a jack shaft for driving said feedscrew, wherein said gear drive comprises a right angle gearbox for transferring power to said jack shaft.

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5. (Previously Presented) The labeling system as recited in Claim 4, wherein said gear drive further comprises a geartrain having a first Browning gear, a second Browning idler gear, and a third Browning gear which rotatably drives said feedscrew.

6. (Currently Amended) The labeling system as recited in Claim 5 12, wherein said first and third Browning gears are phenolic, and the second Browning idler gear is steel.

7. (Previously Presented) The labeling system as recited in Claim 3, and further comprising a cradle bar to which said feedscrew is attached, said cradle bar being pivotable both horizontally and vertically.

8. (Previously Presented) The labeling system as recited in Claim 7, and further comprising a plurality of fixed handles attached to said cradle bar.

9. (Previously Presented) The labeling system as recited in Claim 7, and further comprising a first set of handles attached to said cradle bar which are disposed through a first arcuate slot, said handles having a tightened configuration wherein they retain the cradle bar in a fixed orientation relative to said first slot, and a loosened configuration, wherein the handles can be moved through said first slot to pivot said cradle bar through a vertical range of motion.

10. (Currently Amended) The labeling system as recited in Claim 9 13, and further comprising a second set of handles attached to said cradle bar which are disposed through a second arcuate slot, said handles having a tightened configuration wherein they retain the cradle bar in a fixed orientation relative to said second slot, and a loosened configuration, wherein the handles can be moved through said second slot to pivot said cradle bar through a horizontal range of motion.

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11. (New) A quick change roll-fed high speed labeling system, comprising:
a conveyor for moving articles to be labeled;
an infeed screw assembly for spacing and stabilizing the articles, said infeed screw assembly comprising a feedscrew having a plurality of pockets for receiving and properly spacing successive ones of the articles as they enter said system, and a beltless gear drive for driving said feedscrew, said feedscrew being pivotable both horizontally and vertically;
a rotatable starwheel assembly having a plurality of spaced pockets for receiving individual ones of the articles therein;
a rotatable vacuum drum assembly; and
a supply of roll fed labels, wherein said labels are dispensed singly onto a label receiving face of said rotatable vacuum drum assembly.

12. (New) A quick change roll-fed high speed labeling system, comprising:
a conveyor for moving articles to be labeled;
an infeed screw assembly for spacing and stabilizing the articles, said infeed screw assembly comprising a feedscrew having a plurality of pockets for receiving and properly spacing successive ones of the articles as they enter said system, and a gear drive for driving said feedscrew, said feedscrew being pivotable both horizontally and vertically;
a rotatable starwheel assembly having a plurality of spaced pockets for receiving individual ones of the articles therein;
a rotatable vacuum drum assembly;
a supply of roll fed labels, wherein said labels are dispensed singly onto a label receiving face of said rotatable vacuum drum assembly; and
a jack shaft for driving said feedscrew, wherein said gear drive comprises a right angle gearbox for transferring power to said jack shaft;
wherein said gear drive further comprises a geartrain having a first Browning gear, a second Browning idler gear, and a third Browning gear which rotatably drives said feedscrew.

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13. (New) A quick change roll-fed high speed labeling system, comprising:
a conveyor for moving articles to be labeled;
an infeed screw assembly for spacing and stabilizing the articles, said infeed screw assembly comprising a feedscrew having a plurality of pockets for receiving and properly spacing successive ones of the articles as they enter said system, and a gear drive for driving said feedscrew, said feedscrew being pivotable both horizontally and vertically;
a rotatable starwheel assembly having a plurality of spaced pockets for receiving individual ones of the articles therein;
a rotatable vacuum drum assembly;
a supply of roll fed labels, wherein said labels are dispensed singly onto a label receiving face of said rotatable vacuum drum assembly;
a cradle bar to which said feedscrew is attached, said cradle bar being pivotable both horizontally and vertically; and
a first set of handles attached to said cradle bar which are disposed through a first arcuate slot, said handles having a tightened configuration wherein they retain the cradle bar in a fixed orientation relative to said first slot, and a loosened configuration, wherein the handles can be moved through said first slot to pivot said cradle bar through a vertical range of motion.